

EQUAL RIGHTS

"MEN AND WOMEN SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND EVERY PLACE SUBJECT TO ITS JURISDICTION"

Amendment to the United States Constitution now before Congress

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, Washington, D. C.

Vol. 26, No. 3

MARCH, 1940



Nation Observes Susan B. Anthony Day

MEMBERS OF U. S. CONGRESS JOIN WOMEN IN
PAYING TRIBUTE TO EQUAL RIGHTS PIONEER

SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY, universally observed and proclaimed by Governors of many States, was celebrated on the evening of February 15 in the Crypt of the Nation's Capitol on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of the birth of the noted crusader for Equal Rights for men and women.

Grouped before the Adelaide Johnson Statue of the Equal Rights pioneers, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, known in the woman movement as "the inseparable three," a capacity audience heard addresses in which United States Senator Guy M. Gillette, Democrat, of Iowa; Representative Jessie Sumner, Republican, of Illinois; Representative George H. Bender, Ohio Republican Congressman-at-Large and President of the National Federation of Republican Clubs, and Dr. Cornelia Brown, Chairman of the New Jersey Committee to Eliminate Discriminations Against Women, linked the name of Susan B. Anthony with those of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, as a champion of human liberty and democracy.

Presiding was Mrs. Marguerite Dugan Bodziak, Democratic National Committeewoman for Delaware, who spoke briefly, then introduced the speakers. Mary T. Norton, of New Jersey, unavoidably absent from the city, wired:

"I regret that I am unable to be with you on this memorable occasion to pay homage to one of the pioneers in the cause of women, Susan B. Anthony. We have come far toward reaching the goal for which she worked and I feel that we, the women of this country, must unite and keep striving. I have been instructed by the State Assembly in New Jersey to convey to you the text of a resolution passed February 5, 1940, 'to express the appreciation of the people of New Jersey for the work of Susan B. Anthony, at the Memorial Exercises to be held in Washington on February 15.'"

Recalling many dramatic incidents in the life of Miss Anthony, Representative Bender closed with, "The fight is not yet over. There is still much which must be done before equal rights are assured to every man and woman in our nation. Susan Anthony's spirit must continue to live; it must continue to work; she would not want it to rest for a moment, so long as there remain areas in life where women are unequal before the law.

"None of these objectives will be easily attained, but opposition is the testing ground of every worthwhile activity of the human spirit. When you feel like quitting, when you become discouraged and think the task hopeless, think of Susan B. Anthony . . . she was persecuted, but she fought on. You, too, will carry on in

her name, to do for your daughters what she did for your mothers."

Senator Gillette, in an address delivered by Mrs. Gillette, said: "As long as there remains anywhere within the borders of the United States a State or section in which our women have not attained a full legal equality with our male citizens, the work of this noble woman is not completed. And I know of no better way in which those of us who honor her memory can prove our gratitude and worthiness of being the recipients of her labors, than to continue the efforts ceaselessly until there is incorporated into the Constitution of the United States a provision giving American women absolute equality under law, with all the rest of our citizens.

"I have scant patience with those who oppose such an Amendment to the Constitution on the ground that it is an invasion of the Rights of the States to enact their own legislation. Under the Amendment, State Rights would be preserved. Every State would adopt its own standard, but such standard must apply equally to men and women within that jurisdiction. It would simply mean that under the law women would have equal rights with all other citizens. Equality does not mean uniformity. In a given State men and women would have equal rights but the rights would not necessarily be the same in the various State jurisdictions. Each of our States could preserve its own standard, but the standard in any one State would apply equally to all of the men and women in that particular State.

"When we realize the tremendous handicap of prejudice and resentment under which Susan B. Anthony labored to take the first steps toward equal rights for women, we certainly will not be dismayed at the remnants of opposition that still exist here and there in various sections of our Nation. I do not believe that this opposition anywhere has crystallized into effective opposition. But our hardest fight will be the fight against indifference and inertia. My only message, then, is to urge every American citizen to work without ceasing until the final goal has been attained, and the women of America have been recognized in the basic fundamental law of our Union, as the full equal of all other citizens of the Republic."

Throughout the country there were Susan B. Anthony Day observances. Notable among these were celebrations held in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Florida, Michigan, California and many other states.

Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, Woman's Party National

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Official Organ
of the
NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY
Capitol Hill Washington, D. C.
Phone Atlantic 1210
Published Monthly at
144 B Street, N. E., Washington, D. C.
Entered as second-class matter at the post-
office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of
March 3, 1879.
Subscription, \$1.00 a Year
Foreign Subscription, \$1.50

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Maryland Women Lobby Congress

When the Democratic Party Convention is held in Chicago in July, the platform adopted will include a plank guaranteeing the principle of equal legal rights for men and women, is the opinion of Mrs. Ray H. Bollinger, Legislative Chairman of the United Democratic Women's Clubs of Maryland, a member of a delegation of Maryland women spending February 20-21 in Washington interviewing members of Congress in behalf of the Equal Rights Amendment.

"We see no reason why we should not be successful in our mission," said Mrs. W. W. White, State Legislative Chairman of the Women's Auxiliary of the Maryland American Legion. "Our country fought a war for democracy overseas twenty years ago. Now, American women want a full share in it at home. I cannot believe Congress will refuse to submit it to the States for vote. That would not be democratic. Sentiment for the Amendment is widespread."

Mrs. Bollinger referred to the fact that at its recent meeting in Washington, the National Democratic Executive Committee went on record in favor of equality for men and women in Party organization. "The principle," said Mrs. Bollinger, "is the very principle we desire to see incorporated in the Constitution."

Foremost among the members of the Maryland delegation, in addition to Mrs. Bollinger and Mrs. White were Mrs. George E. Halsey, President of the Maryland Branch, National Woman's Party; Mrs. Alma Ambrose, Public Affairs Chairman, Maryland Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs and Mrs. William H. Jensen, Legislative Chairman of the 26th Ward Democratic Women's Club of Baltimore and Maryland Legislative Chairman, National Woman's Party.

Well pleased with sentiment in Congress for the Amendment, leaders of the delegation predicted submission of the Equal Rights Amendment to the States by Congress this session.

Political Parties and Women

THE year 1940 is one of great importance to women of the country, for during this year the major political Parties meet in Conventions to adopt platforms and to choose their candidates for the highest office in the gift of our democracy—that of President of the United States.

The platforms will set forth the principles upon which the Parties will go before the people, asking support for their standard bearers and indicating the policies of the parties between conventions.

It would be the part of wisdom at this time for the Parties to incorporate in their platforms a plank advocating an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States securing to women equal legal rights with men.

The United States is a democracy, and as such is pleading the cause of democracy for all peoples. Our Nation, twenty years ago, fought a war overseas for what it termed "Making the World Safe for Democracy." As long as women, constituting approximately one-half of the citizenry of the country, do not have equal legal rights with men, they have not a full share in democracy and our democracy is not complete.

The imperative necessity for millions of American women to work for a living for themselves and their dependents, and the need of untold millions of women to carve out a destiny for themselves according to their individual abilities and desires as human beings, has shown them very plainly that these things cannot be accomplished as long as American law deals with them as inferiors. Shackles of law—any shackles for that matter do not permit any great measure of progress.

There is every evidence that organized women of the land, particularly women who attempt to achieve, and who find themselves handicapped by unequal laws, are determined to free themselves from these unjust burdens. Seventeen national and several hundred state and local organizations are campaigning for immediate submission of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the federal Constitution to the States for vote.

What will be the attitude of women toward a political Party or candidate ignoring this demand for Democracy for women of the United States? How can either square such an attitude with the concept of Democracy?

In the light of experience the major political Parties now know that they failed to show political wisdom in the final days of the Woman Suffrage struggle when they delayed giving active support to the measure. For twenty years women have been doing a big job for the Parties. It is now the turn of the Parties to take a definite stand in their platforms for a *full share in democracy for women. Women have earned it.*

Each of the major Parties has a women's division, which functions efficiently. No informed Party leader discounts its value. Approximately 50 percent of the total vote cast in the last general election was cast by women. Certainly securing to women of the United States equal legal rights with other citizens is not a partisan matter. It is a question of *giving or denying* to American women the same share in democracy men citizens already enjoy.

Records of opposition to the Suffrage Amendment a score of years ago read today like records from the Middle Ages and those who made them prefer to forget them. The Parties do not have to repeat those mistakes. In the homestretch of the Suffrage campaign it became necessary to make Suffrage a political issue. American women, particularly those who have cast their lot with the Parties and consistently supported them, would resent having to do this again.

What will 1940 mean to American women? The major political Parties hold the secret.



Book Reviews



FRANCES WRIGHT REVALUED

FRANCES WRIGHT, FREE ENQUIRER. By A. J. G. Perkins and Theresa Wolfson. Harper & Bros., N. Y. \$3.50.

Reviewed by ALMA LUTZ

Frances Wright began giving lectures in the days when "ladies" did not speak in public. She had liberal ideas on government and social institutions and expressed them freely, although "ladies" were supposed to know nothing about such subjects, or if they did, to keep discreetly silent. She and Mary Wollstonecraft were held up to women as horrible examples of atheism and immorality—the result of giving too much freedom to women. But so highly did Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony think of Frances Wright's pioneering for women that they used her picture as a frontispiece for the first volume of *The History of Woman Suffrage* and dedicated the *History* to her among others of a group of women pioneers, "whose earnest lives and fearless words, in demanding political rights for women have been . . . a constant inspiration."

Frances Wright's interests were wide—equal rights for women, a national system of education, the abolition of capital punishment and imprisonment for death, the abolition of slavery, the founding of Nashoba Community, the intermarriage of races, a fair deal for workers, and so on. When as a young woman in Scotland, she read about the American Revolution, she was so thrilled by it that she made up her mind to come to this country. Her first visit was in 1818; it was filled with interest and was reported in her *Views of Society and Manners in the United States*. Her second trip was with Lafayette on his triumphal tour in 1824. Her friendship with Lafayette, Robert Owen, Robert Dale Owen, and Jeremy Bentham opened the way for her to meet interesting and important people. She was always in the limelight, always brimming over with ideas, many of them impractical, but many of them planting the seed of much-needed reforms.

Her story has been interestingly told by Alice J. G. Perkins and Theresa Wolfson and belongs on every feminist book shelf.

A Labor Woman Comments

Mary McEnerney, Cook County Commissioner and Secretary of Local 30 of the Bindery Women's Union, comments sarcastically on Amendment No. 6, captioned "Overtime," in the proposed changes in the by-laws of the International Bookbinders' Union, which reads:

Substitute for Paragraph "C" of Section 74, General Laws, the following:

"Overtime rates shall be required for any time worked after the regular closing hour, in excess of eight hours in any one day, or in excess of forty hours in any one week. Overtime up to three hours shall be at the rate of time and one-half; more than three hours, double time; Sundays and holidays, double time."

Miss McEnerney comments:

"Amendment No. 6 makes me laugh. Why isn't it labeled—For Men Only? The women haven't had much help when their jobs were taken away from them in the regulation of hours for women only."

Judge Rules Woman Not Entitled To Be Tried By Jury Of Her Peers

Attorney Thomas H. Stone, of Richmond, Va., in a case involving a woman client, moved to quash a venire facias because it failed to include women as prospective jurors.

Mr. Stone made the motion because of what he termed the "systematic exclusion of women from juries" in Hustings Court, Part II, and throughout Virginia. He cited the Virginia and United States Constitutions, saying that for twenty years full rights of citizenship had been bestowed upon women by equal suffrage laws.

The attorney called the court's attention to the fact that the Supreme Court of the United States had decided that Negroes could not be "systematically excluded" from juries in cases where Negroes were on trial. Therefore, he argued that for the same reason, mixed juries of men and women should hear evidence in cases involving the rights and liberty of women.

Judge Willis C. Pulliam in overruling the motion to quash, made it plain that he was rendering a "horseback opinion." He explained that he was wholly unprepared for the move by defense counsel, raising a constitutional point.

"Your client," Judge Pulliam told Mr. Stone, "won't lose anything by letting a jury of men try this case."

Mr. Stone has appealed and states that he will carry the case to the highest tribunal in the land if necessary. "The right of my client to a trial by a jury of her peers," declared the attorney, "is a constitutional right. When women are systematically excluded from juries trying women, a woman so tried is not tried by a jury of her peers."

Through the efforts of the Virginia Branch, National Woman's Party, there has been introduced in the Virginia Legislature now in session a Bill providing for women serving on juries in that State.

Help Hasten the Day

Dr. Elizabeth Woodworth, of Minneapolis, Minn., expressing approval of Why Wait a Hundred Years, an editorial appearing in the February issue of Equal Rights, writes, "I too say, 'Why wait a hundred years?' May we hasten the day. Your paper is doing a great work."

In order to help hasten the day, Miss Woodworth enclosed a check made payable to Equal Rights. If more women interested in the work Equal Rights is doing would back up their approval and their desire to help with a check, as Dr. Woodworth has done, without a doubt the day of equal legal rights for American women would be hastened.

Seal Campaign Grows

Phoebe C. Munnecke, prominent Detroit, Mich., lawyer and an ardent campaigner for the Equal Rights Amendment, writes, "I have used a good many hundred Equal Rights Seals since they were issued, and shall continue to do so until the Amendment is adopted." If everyone who believes in equality will do likewise, the Amendment will soon be a part of the Constitution.

SUNRISE INN

Apartments & Cottages—A Home for the Winter

JAMES H. REARDON, Mgr.

PORT SEWALL, FLORIDA

A Feminist Thinks It Over

By ALMA LUTZ

DO WOMEN LACK SELF-RESPECT?

A CLIPPING FROM a New York paper has just reached me, telling of the results of a poll among Russell Sage College students in which they record themselves as overwhelmingly against women considering themselves eligible for the Presidency of the United States, the Vice-Presidency, or even the office of Cabinet Member. Their reasons for such old-fashioned opinions, according to the press, were that women lack the necessary physical and emotional stability, have not sufficient experience in public affairs, and cannot "escape the pettiness of life."

This is amazing, discouraging, and inexcusable from young women who are getting their education on the site of Emma Willard's "dangerous experiment," the Troy Female Seminary. It might be understandable if such opinions had come from women in the eighteen hundreds, or from Nazi Germany, or even from young girls in finishing schools trained for a life of luxury and society. But from girls who expect to earn their living, it is incomprehensible. Either their mothers are suffering from an inferiority complex, or their fathers have a very poor estimate of women, or the education they are getting at Russell Sage College is at fault.

It may be news to these students that as far back as the Sixteenth Century Elizabeth ruled England and was an excellent Queen. It may be news to them that when Emma Willard began advocating higher education for women, public opinion regarded women as physically and emotionally unfit for education, incapable of reasoning, and created for another sphere. Emma Willard proved these theories untrue. The same old arguments have been brought up through the years to combat every progressive step that women have taken, and are still being offered to an unthinking public.

Emma Willard stands out as an example to all women for her innate self-respect and her confidence in women. I recommend her courage, independence, ambition, and self-respect to the students of Russell Sage College, and suggest as a course of study for them—women's contribution to the building up of our country.

While even those of us who believe ardently in the abilities of women, do not expect to see a woman as President in 1940 or in 1944, we know that women are capable of filling that high position. We know that if the world is to progress, women must bear their share of the responsibility for government, and women's colleges must prepare them for that task.

Clause for a Gift by Will to the National Woman's Party

Believing that women should have Equal Rights and opportunities with men before the law, in the professions, in industry, in education, in the home, and in the conduct of our Government, in all fields of endeavor, I give and bequeath to the National Woman's Party, a corporation of Washington, D. C., the sum of _____dollars to further its work for the advancement of women.

Nation Observes Susan B. Anthony Day

(Continued from Front Page)

Chairman, and Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller, Democratic National Committeewoman for Pennsylvania, spoke at a banquet meeting in Baltimore. In Philadelphia a dinner meeting featured as speakers Dr. Frances Blanchard, Dean of Women, Swarthmore College; Miss Ada Taylor, Convention Manager, Hotel Claridge, Atlantic City, N. J.; Dr. Henrietta Hart, Secretary, National Council of Women, of New York, and Mrs. Edwina Avery, Chairman Government Workers' Council, Washington, D. C.

In Richmond, Va., a banquet meeting, presided over by Mrs. Mary Bell, Chairman, featured an address by Mrs. Amelia Himes Walker, of Baltimore, whose equal rights activities go back to the days of the Suffrage campaign when she was among the women suffering imprisonment for the cause. Others on the program included the State Chairman, Mrs. Elsie Graff, Mrs. Roy Flannagan, who acted as toastmaster, and Mr. Thomas A. Stone, who spoke on Jury Service.

A feature of the observance in Virginia, Ohio, Florida, Massachusetts and other States was the presentation of a radio play by Birsia Shepard, of National Headquarters, entitled "Susan, the Pioneer." Given by local casts, the play is woven about a dramatic incident in the life of Miss Anthony and serves to acquaint the audience with the plight of women at that time and the almost insurmountable barriers to their freedom. Miss Shepard personally directed the Virginia presentation.

Music for the ceremony in the Capitol in Washington was furnished by the United States Marine Band Orchestra, William F. Santlemann, leader, conducting.

Participating in the observance and laying wreaths before the statue of the Pioneers were: American Federation of Soroptimists, American Medical Women's Association, Daughters of the American Revolution, District of Columbia Federation of Women's Clubs, Florida State College for Women Alumnae Club, Government Workers' Council, Inter-American Commission of Women, International Reform Federation, League of American Pen Women, League of Republican Women, Mt. Holyoke College Club, National Association of Colored Women, National Association of Women Lawyers, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, National Woman's Party, Osteopathic Women's National Association, Pilot International, Quota, Susan B. Anthony League Foundation, University of Michigan Club, Women's Christian Temperance Union, Women's City Club, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women's National Democratic Club, Women's Overseas Service League, World Woman's Party, Young Women's Christian Association, New Jersey Committee to Eliminate Discriminations Against Women, New Jersey Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs and the following branches of the National Woman's Party: District of Columbia, Illinois, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Virginia.

Sponsored by the Susan B. Anthony Committee of the National Woman's Party, Mrs. Robert Adamson, chairman, the commemorative ceremonies, have a two-fold purpose. Senator Gillette aptly expressed this when he said that they are "to remind ourselves of the great services and sacrifices of certain citizens, who in the past have by wholesale devotion to a cause, contributed largely to the national welfare of our people, and for the purpose of dedicating ourselves to the furtherance of the work remaining to be done in the same cause, thus showing ourselves worthy of the sacrifices that have been made by those whom we honor."